Plan period 1992-97 under different main heads;

(b) whether it is a fact that this outlay is being slashed, if so, the extent to which the cut is envisaged and which part of the industry is likely to be affected by it; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for overcoming the loss in technological production and further development in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The proposed outlay for the Eighth plan (1992—97) for the oil sector under its main heads is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

(i) Exploration & Picducticn	38874.00
(ii) Refning & Markting	14350-1?
(iii) Petro-Chemicals	4586.86
(iv) Engineering Units	392. 86

(b) The outlay for the Eighth Plan for the oil sector has not yet been fina lised.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil potential in North East

307. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware to the fact that there is a big oil potential in the North East; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to invest more on the North Eastern Sector for oil exploration work in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) All possible steps are being a taken to produce as much oil as possible from the North East.

Natural Gas Project in Greater Bombay

308. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NAIURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government prop ose to set up a distribution project for Naiural Gas in Greater Bombay;

(b) whether the project is likely to be a joint venture with a reputed multinational company capable of supplying latest technology and foreign equity to the tune of Rs. 190 crores for the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Gas Authority of India have a project in this regard. No decision has been taken regarding this being in the joint venture.

बरौनी तेल शोधक कारखाना

309. **डा० बापू कालदाते** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बरौनी तेलशोधक कारखाने में उसकी कुल क्षमता का 40 प्रतिशत भी उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) से (ग) वर्ष 1988-89, 1899-90 और 1990–91 के दौरान बरौनी तेल शोधक कारखाने ने अपनी कुल 3.3 मिलियन टन की संस्थापित क्षमता का क्रमशः 85.3% 89.9% और 72.2% कच्चे तेल का शोधन किया है। क्षमता से कम उपयोग हुआ क्योंकि असम के कच्चे तेल की उपलब्धता कम थी । प्रयास किया गया कि बरौनी को यथासंभव अधिक से अधिक कच्चा तेल मुहैया किया जाए ।